

# Interference Bill in Limbo

By JOHN D. McCLAIN

WASHINGTON (AP) —

For the moment, it appears Congress will give the electronic home entertainment industry a chance to shield its products from CB and other radio interference voluntarily.

Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., has introduced a bill that would require manufacturers to reduce the problem.

Goldwater is an amateur radio buff whose legally operated equipment has caused interference with neighboring television and stereo sets and even a nearby church organ.

Rep. Charles A. Vanik, D-Ohio, has introduced similar legislation in the House.

But at a recent Senate communications subcommittee hearing on his bill, Goldwater said he would prefer to let manufacturers build necessary shielding components into their equipment without being forced to do so.

And 'that's where it stands for now. The bill is in limbo for lack of its sponsor's push while he waits for industry reaction.

The legislation was prompted by growing complaints from television, radio, stereo and other home entertainment equipment owners of interference caused by personal radio transmissions.



CB radios are the cause of most problems, leading the Federal Communications Commission to report recently that "CB-related television interference produced the largest number of complaints to FCC field offices."

Indeed, Goldwater told the subcommittee, an FCC staff study projects that nearly 21 million persons will be bothered in the year starting Oct. 1 by interference caused by CB

and amateur radios.

At the same time, the Arizona Republican said the FCC study indicates about 40 percent of the interference could be solved by a high-pass filter. Another 30 percent of the problem would be greatly reduced by such a device, he added.

"We are not talking about high-priced work in these instances," he said. "Nor are we talking about high prices to

manufacturers. We are talking about prices from a dollar or two to maybe 10 at the most."

Several organizations urged immediate enactment of Goldwater's bill.

They include the National Association of Broadcasters, whose radio and TV members often receive complaints of poor reception due to interference, and the American Radio Relay League, a national organization representing ham radio operators. The league contended that "jawboning" the industry would not solve the problem.

On the other hand, the Consumer Electronics Group of the Electronic Industries Association, representing TV and radio manufacturers, and high-fidelity and stereo enthusiasts opposed the measure. They said it would be cost-prohibitive and impair the quality of the equipment.

FCC Chairman Charles D. Ferris, however, sided with Goldwater.

"Equipment manufacturers can — and should — be given an opportunity, a forum and incentives to explore voluntary industrywide standards on interference susceptibility before a new regulatory program is authorized," he said.